

BARILETT, TOWN, HI

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Truman Howe Bartlett

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

STATUETTE OF LINCOLN



In the summer of 1877 in Port Marley, a little hamlet on the branch of the River Seine, two miles from St. Germain near Paris, Truman H. Bartlett sculptured a statuette of Abraham Lincoln.

The same year he exhibited the statuette in a Paris salon and it was purchased by a bronze chandelier manufacturing concern, Mitchell, Vance and Company. Brown University of Providence, Rhode Island, is the present owner of the plaster model. It is exhibited in a prominent place in their Lincoln library. It is believed that only one bronze statuette was cast by the foundry which is now the property of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

The statuette is thirty-nine inches tall and is signed by Bartlett with the date 1877. The foundry name of Mitchell, Vance and Co. is also inscribed on the base.

Eminent as a sculptor, and an authority on the life of Lincoln, Bartlett wrote a remarkable essay on "The Portraits of Lincoln" which appeared jointly with "A Biographical Essay" by Carl Schurz in a Houghton Mifflin (Riverside Press) publication in 1907 in an edition of 1,040 copies. This beautiful book was designed by Bruce Rogers.

During the summer of 1907 Bartlett tried to locate his statuette of Lincoln. The bronze foundry had lost all trace of their production and even the plaster model could not be found. Perhaps if it had been discovered Bartlett would have included it among the illustrations for his essay, "The Portraits of Lincoln."

The only photograph of the statuette ever published appeared in Luther Emerson Robinson's book *Abraham Lincoln—As A Man Of Letters*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1923. In a "Note on Illustrations" the author stated that "The Bartlett picture (facing page 192) is from a photograph of a bronze statuette of the President, made by Truman A. Bartlett and exhibited by him in Paris in 1877."

The quotation on the base of the statuette is "THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM; & THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE & FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH."


Legal Practitioner

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"The question within propounded is one which I could not answer without liability to misunderstanding, and, as I fear, doing harm."
— A. Lincoln

This Lincoln note might well be described as "inflated, and obscure verbiage characteristic of the pronouncement of officialdom." The above quotation is Webster's (New Collegiate Dictionary) definition of "gobbledygook."

This original note is in the manuscript collection of The Lincoln National Life Foundation.



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BARTLETT, Thomas H.

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